

## Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02092 051143Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 OMB-01 L-02 AID-05

IGA-01 /066 W

----- 034602

R 051013Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 515

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSRR KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 2092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TH, S

SUBJECT: PROPOSED GOS M-16 SALE TO THAILAND

REF: STATE 15353

1. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT COLT'S TEMPORARY REFUSAL OF M-16 SALE TO THAILAND IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE STRONG BACKLASH HERE, IN CONTEXT OF ALREADY EXISTENT THAI RESENTMENT AGAINST COLT.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT BEFORE THAI CONTRACTED FOR HECKLER-KOCH (H-K) RIFLE FACTORY, THEY WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN RECEIVING BID FROM COLT. COLT WAS SLOW TO SHOW INTEREST, AND THAILAND EVENTUALLY TURNED TO H-K. H-K OPERATION REMAINS CONTROVERSIAL, WITH SOME THAIS DESCRIBING IT AS FLOP. AS SUPREME COMMAND CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL KRIANGSAK RECENTLY REMARKED (SEE MOMCON DATED DECEMBER 13, 1975, NOTAL), DEAL WITH HECKLER-KOCH WAS IN PART A RESULT OF HURT FEELINGS OVER WHAT THAIS PERCEIVED

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 02092 051143Z

AS COLT'S INDIFFERENCE TO PROJECT. THUS, US PROBABLY GETS SOME SHARE OF BLAME FROM THOSE WHO CONSIDER HECKLER-KOCH PLANT LESS

THAN SUCCESSFUL.

3. WE HAVE NO INDICATION AS YET THAT THAIS ARE AWARE COLT HAS (AT LEAST PROVISIONALLY) VETOED SALE OF 25,000 SINGAPORE M-16'S TO THAI POLICE. WHEN THIS BECOMES KNOWN, IT WILL HEIGHTEN THAI BELIEF THAT COLT IS CONDUCTING VENDETTA AGAINST THAILAND. PROBABLE REACTION WILL BE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR RIFLES WHILE BUILDING UP FURTHER RESENTMENT AGAINST COLT AND US.

4. EMBASSY IS FULLY APPRECIATIVE OF COLT'S COMMERCIAL INTERESTS AND OF GOOD REASONS FOR WHICH COLT IS BLOCKING SINGAPORE SALE TO THAILAND. IN VIEW OF SITUATION HERE, HOWEVER, WE HOPE THAT IF COLT RECEIVES REASONABLE, EVEN IF NOT TOTAL, SATISFACTION FROM SINGAPORE, COLT WILL AGREE SOONEST TO SALE TO THAI POLICE.  
KINTNER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, ARMS, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO02092  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 15353  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUL 2003  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED GOS M-16 SALE TO THAILAND  
**TAGS:** MILI, TH, SN, US, COLT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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